

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed July 12, 2006 and the following Advisory Action of January 23, 2007 have been carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

A. Status of the Claims

Claims 10-18 and 25-30 stand rejected. Claims 10, 25 and 28 have been amended. Claims 13 and 29 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 10-12, 14-18, 25-28, and 30 remain pending.

B. Claim Amendments

Claims 10 and 25 have been amended to recite that the lubricant includes “a fluorochemical compound selected from the group consisting of a perfluoropolyether, a functionalized perfluoropolyether, a chlorotrifluoroethylene and mixtures thereof.” Support for this amendment may be found, for example, in paragraph [0044] of the published application, which states in part: “[t]he lubricant may be a fluorochemical compound or a polysiloxane-based compound. In one embodiment of the present invention, the fluorochemical compound is a perfluoropolyether (PFPE)... In another embodiment of the invention, the lubricant is a functionalized PFPE... In yet another embodiment of the invention, the fluorochemical compound is a chlorotrifluoroethylene.” No new matter has been entered by this amendment.

Claim 28 has been amended to remove the language “and prior to exposing the coated surface to the energy source.” This amendment is for the purpose of consistency with the specification and is not a substantive amendment made in view of prior art.

C. Advisory Action

The Advisory Action of January 23, 2007 discusses certain deficiencies in the Sakhrani declaration submitted on January 11, 2007. Because Applicants believe that the amendment to the claims overcomes the rejections under 35 USC §102 and §103 for the reasons discussed below, Applicants have decided not to present the Sakhrani declaration at this time. Applicants, however, do reserve the right to resubmit the declaration or other such evidence at a later time.

D. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 10-12, 14-18, 25-28 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,822,632 (hereinafter Williams). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

As amended, independent claim 10 and 25 are directed to an article having reduced break-out force and reduced sliding frictional force comprising one or more surfaces and a lubricant that includes “a fluorochemical compound selected from the group consisting of a perfluoropolyether, a functionalized perfluoropolyether, a chlorotrifluoroethylene and mixtures thereof...” As understood by Applicants, Williams does not disclose a lubricant including a fluorochemical compound, or more specifically, a perfluoropolyether, a functionalized perfluoropolyether, or a chlorotrifluoroethylene. Williams appears merely to disclose the use of “hydrocarbon oils such as vegetable oil, peanut oil, mineral oil, and the like, or, preferably, a synthetic oil such as silicone” (see col. 3, lines 38-43).

Because Williams does not identically disclose each and every element and limitation recited in the amended independent claims 10 and 25, Applicants submit that Williams does not anticipate these claims or the claims dependent therefrom. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection under 35 USC §102(b) be withdrawn.

E. Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 10-12, 14-18, 25-28 and 30 stand rejected, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Williams. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Office Action asserts that “the article of Williams et al. appears to be the same as that of the claimed invention and the burden is on the applicants to conclusively demonstrate that the claimed invention differs from that of Williams et al.” Applicants have demonstrated above that the amended independent claims 10 and 25 differ from Williams because Williams does not disclose the claimed fluorochemical compound. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection under 35 USC §103(a) be withdrawn.

Claims 13 and 29 stand rejected as unpatentable over Williams in view of U.S. Patent 6,200,627 (hereinafter Lubrecht). Because claims 13 and 29 have been cancelled, Applicants respectfully assert that this rejection has been rendered moot. Applicants also note that, as understood by Applicants, Lubrecht does not teach or suggest a lubricant including a fluorochemical compound selected from the group consisting of a perfluoropolyether, a functionalized perfluoropolyether, a chlorotrifluoroethylene and mixtures thereof. Thus, even if Williams and Lubrecht could be combined in the manner proposed in the Office Action, the combination fails to teach or suggest all of the claimed limitations of amended independent claims 10 and 25 as well as the claims depending therefrom.

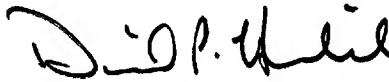
F. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the claims are now in form for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited. If any small point remains in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a telephone interview, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

All objections and rejections have been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application, as amended, is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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